

REMARKS

Claims 12-18 and 21-34 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 19, 20 and 35-48 are now pending. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. All of the pending claims have been allowed and the application is now in condition for allowance.

Additional Comment regarding Phone Interview with Examiner

On January 10, 2005, Applicants' representative (Christopher Parmelee) contacted the Examiner regarding the present application by phone. During this phone interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative agreed that the Examiner would proceed to cancel the rejected claims 12-18 and 21-34 by Examiner's Amendment and would issue a Notice of Allowance with respect to the previously allowed claims 19, 20 and 35-48.

As of the filing of this Response, the Notice of Allowance has not yet been issued by Applicant. Because, the deadline for the shortened statutory period for reply is about to expire, Applicants have filed this Response canceling the rejected claims which were intended to be canceled by Examiner's Amendment.

If the Examiner's Amendment has already been entered canceling the rejected claims then the present amendment canceling the rejected claims may be disregarded.

The Pending Claims Are Not Obvious in View of the Applied Art

Claims 12-18 and 21-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward, U.S. Patent No. 4,636,947 in view of Lawlor, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,220,501 ("Lawlor") and further in view of Black, U.S. Patent No. 3,862,716..

These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants traverse these rejections on the grounds neither Ward nor Lawlor alone or in combination disclose or suggest the features, relationships, and steps that are specifically recited in the claims. Nor is there any teaching, suggestion, or motivation cited for combining features of the cited references so as to produce Applicants' invention.

However, for purposes of placing this Application into condition for allowance, claims 12-18 and 21-34 have been canceled herein without prejudice. The cancellation of these claims shall not constitute an admission that the claims are unpatentable. Applicants reserves the right to file Divisional applications including these canceled claims.

Conclusion

All of the pending claims have been allowed and the application is now in condition for allowance. In the event, a Notice of Allowance is not issued with Office's next Action, Applicant reserves the right to re-introduce all of the canceled claims. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any aspect of the Application by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph E. Jocke Reg. No. 31,029
231 South Broadway
Medina, Ohio 44256
(330) 722-5143